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Identical letters dated 27 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 23 March 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the attack by United States and British aircraft against civilian service installations in southern Iraq on 14 March 2000, which resulted in the death of one person and the wounding of eight others. He urges you to intervene to bring a halt to these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 23 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 14 March 2000, I have the honour to inform you of a further criminal attack by United States and British aircraft on 14 March 2000, which caused the death of one Iraqi citizen and the wounding of eight others. Details of this reprehensible crime are as follows:

1. At 2125 hours on 14 March 2000, United States and British aircraft carried out 26 sorties from Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by two observation and control aircraft, an AWACs operating within Saudi airspace and an E2-C operating within Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew Basra, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Qadisiyah, Najaf, Maysan and Wasit Governorates and attacked our civilian service installations, killing one citizen and wounding eight others. The total number of aerial sorties flown by United States and British aircraft from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace in the course of the blatant campaign of aggression that the United States and the United Kingdom have been waging since 17 December 1998 stood at 16,073 as of 14 March 2000.

The ongoing United States and British aggression against a steadfast Iraq has come to constitute their fixed policy for the achievement of their political objectives aimed at undermining our country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. By the most elementary standards of international intercourse, the declared policy of the leaders of the two countries in question constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and the custom of nations affirming that the use or threat of use of force against the integrity or independence of any State is unacceptable.

Moreover, the logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the United States and United Kingdom makes them full accomplices in the aggression against Iraq, and they must share international responsibility for these acts.

The Government of Iraq, noting that the Governments of those States bear full international responsibility for their acts of aggression and provocation and the resulting injury and damage, reserves in full its inalienable right, guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the custom of nations, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people, and demands compensation for all the losses that it has sustained in human, material and moral terms as a result of those acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq